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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,893	07/07/2003	Richard Kramer	1454.1469	7026
21171	7590	09/20/2005	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BRINEY III, WALTER F	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2646	

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/612,893

Applicant(s)

KRAMER, RICHARD

Examiner

Walter F. Briney III

Art Unit

2646

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2005 and 18 February 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 May 2005 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings were received on 18 May 2005. These drawings are acceptable.

Response to Amendment

The oath or declaration is defective because:

1. **The declaration filed on 18 February 2005 under 37 CFR 1.131 has been considered but is ineffective to overcome the Bershad et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0219113) reference.**

The evidence submitted is insufficient to establish diligence from a date prior to the date of reduction to practice of the Bershad reference to either a constructive reduction to practice or an actual reduction to practice of the claimed invention. In particular, the evidence submitted fails to explain the apparent lack of activity during the critical period set forth in 37 CFR 1.131(b):

"The showing of facts shall be such, in character and weight, as to establish reduction to practice prior to the effective date of the reference, or conception of the invention prior to the effective date of the reference coupled with due diligence from prior to said date to a subsequent reduction to practice or to the filing of the application. Original exhibits of drawings or records, or photocopies thereof, must accompany and form part of the affidavit or declaration or their absence satisfactorily explained."

That is, the filing of a German patent application on 4 July 2002 fails to show diligence in the period right before the effective filing of the Bershad reference on 21 May 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. **Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bershad et al. (US Patent Application Publication 2003/0219113).**

Claim 1 is limited to *a method of line matching for analog communications lines in telecommunications networks via at least one signal processor and/or programmable digital filter*. Bershad discloses an echo canceller with double-talk and channel impulse response adaptation. See Abstract. The preferred layout of the echo canceller disclosed by Bershad is depicted in figure 1, with further detail concerning the transversal time domain filters depicted in figures 3 and 4. Bershad touts early double-talk detection by storing an extra M symbols at the front of the input delay line. These are adapted like the other symbols, but are not used in the removal of echo. The double-talk and impulse response adaptation comprises comparing the filter coefficients stored within the shadow filter (108) to those stored in the main filter (106). When a measured energy difference satisfies certain criteria, the coefficients from shadow filter are transferred to the main filter (i.e. *generating a new set of filter coefficients when incorrect line matching is identified; and feeding the new set of filter coefficients into the*

digital filter device). See paragraphs 36-41, 44-47, in particular, paragraph 47.

Therefore, Bershad anticipates all limitations of the claim.

The apparatus defined in claim 6 is covered by the examples recited in the rejection of the method of claim 1, and is rejected for the same reasons.

Claim 2 is limited to *the method according to claim 1*, as covered by Bershad. As seen in figure 5, the echo canceller disclosed by Bershad is implemented within a four-wire digital network, and inherently computes the echo path (i.e. *coefficients of the line transmission function*) for a first line gateway in the line path. Therefore, Bershad anticipates all limitations of the claim.

Claim 5 is limited to *the method according to claim 1*, as covered by Bershad. As seen in paragraphs 37 and 38, Bershad discloses calculating the metric and the subsequent comparison by looking only at the extra M taps of the transversal filter (i.e. *wherein the comparison is executed between compute-time optimized approximation methods*). Therefore, Bershad anticipates all limitations of the claim.

The method defined in claim 8 is essentially the same as that of claim 1, and is rejected for the same reasons. Notice, the echo canceller of Bershad is digital, and implemented in software. See paragraph 56.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 3, 4, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bershad in view of Sih (US Patent 5,732,134).**

Claim 3 is limited to *the method according to claim 1*, as covered by Bershad.

Bershad discloses in paragraph 37 and 38 that the comparison is made between the time-averaged energy of the two filters' coefficients. Therefore, Bershad anticipates all limitations of the claim with the exception *wherein the comparison is made using a folding and/or Fourier transformation operations*.

Sih discloses a method of doubletalk detection by means of spectral content. See Abstract. The method of Sih teaches that time-domain energy comparisons used in echo cancellers are significantly affected by noise disturbance. See column 2, lines 10-35. In solution, Sih teaches performing metric comparisons using the spectral content of a signal. See column 2, lines 38-64. Clearly, this provides noise immunity, as the entire spectrum of the signal is considered instead of only the composite signal. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to compare the filter coefficients' spectral content instead of their short-term average energies as taught by Sih for the purpose of providing greater noise immunity in an echo canceller system.

The limitations presented in claim 4 are essentially the same as those presented in claim 2, and are rejected for the same reasons presented therein.

The apparatus defined in claim 7 is covered by the examples recited in the rejection of the method of claim 3, and is rejected for the same reasons.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 18 February 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to claims 1-8, the applicant alleges on pages 6 and 7 of the current response that Bershad is not applicable as prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) in view of the inventor's declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, the examiner respectfully disagrees. As shown in the previous section entitled *Response to Amendment*, the inventor's declaration is ineffective, rendering all arguments made in connection therewith moot. As all of the applicant's arguments have been shown to be either moot or unpersuasive, the rejections of claims 1-8 are maintained.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Walter F. Briney III whose telephone number is 571-272-7513. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am - 4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sinh Tran can be reached on 571-272-7564. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



SINH TRAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

WFB
9/12/05